

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 IO-13 HEW-04
IGA-02 /057 R

DRAFTED BY OES/CP:RFSIMMONS,JR.:MCM
APPROVED BY OES/CP:AMB. MGREEN
AA/PHA - SMLEVIN
AA/LA - AVALDEZ
PHA/POP - WBOYNTON
ARA/MEX - HLANE
PHA/POP/LA - LEICHER
LA/DR - MBRACKETT
DAA/PHA - KMACMANUS
C - MNIMETZ (INFO)

-----012098 300205Z /65

P 292259Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178690

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SPOP, MX

SUBJECT: U.S. POPULATION ASSISTANCE IN MEXICO

REF: (A) MEXICO 11164; (B) MEXICO 12069

IN RESPONSE REF A AND TRIP REPORTS OF DAA/PHA MACMANUS AND
BAIR, A MEETING WAS HELD ON JULY 21 IN THE DEPARTMENT
CHAired BY AA/PHA SANDER LEVIN AND INCLUDING AMBASSADOR
MARSHALL GREEN, OES/CP, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF AID POPULA-
TION OFFICE, AID LATIN AMERICAN BUREAU AND ARA MEXICAN DESK.
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REF B RECEIVED BEFORE MEETING AND GROUP WAS INFORMED OF
CONTENTS.

GROUP WAS UNIFORMLY PLEASED WITH POLICY GUIDANCE IN REF B
AND REPORTING IN REF A AND WISHES TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION
TO POST FOR THOROUGH BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS OF
POSSIBLE ACTIONS.

GIVEN RATIONALES EXPRESSED REF A AND PARTICULARLY THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE INTEREST OF THE MEXICANS, THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO ASSIST MEXICO IN ITS EFFORTS TO LIMIT ITS POPULATION GROWTH THROUGH ANY MEANS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT BY NORMAL AID CRITERIA, MEXICO IS A "MIDDLE INCOME" NATION WHICH COULD NOT BE A RECIPIENT OF ALL TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. GIVEN POSITIVE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE OF ASSISTING MEXICO WITH ITS POPULATION/FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE RAISED, HOWEVER, ON HOW THAT ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE APPROPRIATELY GIVEN, IN LIGHT OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN REF A.

FIRST, WHAT RELATION WOULD US ASSISTANCE HAVE TO ACTIVITIES OF OTHER DONORS. CURRENT INFORMATION ON ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF OTHER DONORS INCLUDING WORLD BANK, U.N. FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA), SWEDEN THROUGH THE UNFPA, INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION (IPPF) AND PRIVATE US FOUNDATIONS WAS DISCUSSED. WHILE DETAILS NOT KNOWN ON ALL ACTIVITIES IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUING INTEREST IN US ASSISTANCE, EVEN IF ALL OTHER PLANNED ASSISTANCE CAME THROUGH. HOWEVER, IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND MEXICO, WE MUST KEEP UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER

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DONORS, PARTICULARLY THE WORLD BANK AND UNFPA.

SECOND, WHAT FUNDING MECHANISMS ARE POSSIBLE FOR DIRECTING ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO. GIVEN THE HIGH LEVEL OF CURRENT INTEREST AND ACTIVITY, THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING URGED THAT FUNDS BE ALLOCATED TO MEXICO IN FY 1977 AND FY 1978 WHERE AVAILABLE. ADDITIONAL FUNDING WILL BE REQUESTED IN FY 1979 FOR ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO. HOWEVER, AID REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND PRESENTATION MIGHT POSSIBLY CONFLICT WITH CAUTIONARY NOTE EXPRESSED REF A PARAGRAPH 12. TO REDIRECT FUNDS TO MEXICO, EVEN THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES IN FY 1977 AND 1978 CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE NOTIFIED AND THAT NOTIFICATION IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FY 1979 WILL APPEAR IN THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION WHICH IS ALSO A MATTER OF RECORD. RESTRAINT WILL BE FULLY UTILIZED SO THAT ANY ASSISTANCE TO PROGRAMS IN MEXICO WILL BE VIEWED IN THE FULL PERSPECTIVE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE GLOBALLY SO THAT MEXICO DOES NOT STAND OUT, BUT GIVEN THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED ANY ASSISTANCE COULD ATTRACT SOME PUBLIC NOTICE. BOTH THE GOM AND EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY.

THIRD, WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED AND GIVEN THE PREFERENCE FOR DELIVERING THE ASSISTANCE THROUGH PRIVATE COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE USED. IN LIGHT OF SPECIFIC MEXICAN REQUESTS REFLECTED IN REF A, FOUR BROAD TYPES OF FY 1977 ASSISTANCE WERE CONSIDERED.

1. SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY BASED DISTRIBUTION PROJECT OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH THROUGH COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

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THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT WITH SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT BUT SUPPORT SHOULD BE CONTINGENT ON SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTA-
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TION TO SHOW ITS USE AND HOW THE PROJECT FITS INTO OVERALL PLANS. THE TIMING AND EXACT AMOUNT OF FUNDING WERE NOT DISCUSSED.

2. ASSISTANCE TO THE VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION PROGRAMS OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SSA) THROUGH UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, INTERNATIONAL FERTILITY RESEARCH PROGRAM (IFRP) AND TO IMSS THROUGH FAMILY PLANNING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. GIVEN THAT THIS REQUEST COULD TOTAL UP TO \$2.0 MILLION FOR BOTH ORGANIZATIONS, THERE WAS SOME CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION BEING THE FOCUS OF INITIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO. THERE WERE ALSO QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING WOULD BE USED AND WHAT PLANS THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS FOR OUTREACH OF VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS. AGAIN THERE WAS THE PRESUMPTION THAT BEFORE FINAL APPROVAL, DOCUMENTATION IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL WOULD BE PROVIDED WHICH ANSWERS THESE QUESTIONS.

3. ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTRACEPTIVE COMMERCIALIZATION PLAN NOW BEING PREPARED BY LUIS DE LAMACORRA WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1. THE GROUP UNDERSTOOD THAT A DRAFT PLAN HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND IS BEING STUDIED BUT THAT THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH THE PROVISION OF US MANUFACTURED CONTRACEPTIVES DIRECTLY TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF SOURCE REQUIREMENTS AND PACKAGING. IF THOSE PROBLEMS CAN BE WORKED OUT THE GROUP WAS AGREEABLE TO ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA WITH FY 1978 FUNDS.

4. THE BROADER REQUEST FOR \$5 MILLION FOR BUDGET SUPPORT TO EXTEND THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM TO RURAL AREAS RAISED FURTHER QUESTIONS. THE PRINCIPAL CONCERN WAS A
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LACK OF INFORMATION ON WHAT EXACTLY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAD PLANNED FOR THE RURAL DELIVERY OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. MACMANUS REPORTED THAT PLANS HAD NOT BEEN FINALIZED YET, GIVEN NEWNESS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH POPULATION. THE GROUP WAS RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE THIS BROAD BASED KIND OF SUPPORT, INCLUDING LOCAL SALARIES, WITHOUT A BETTER INDICATION OF WHAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAD IN MIND FOR THIS ACTIVITY. THERE WERE ALSO QUESTIONS AS TO THE RELATION BETWEEN POSSIBLE U.S. ASSISTPRIATELY BE DIRECTED THROUGH PRIVATE COOPERATING GROUPS OR SHOULD BE DIRECTLY BILATERAL, DESPITE THE EMBASSY'S PREFERENCE FOR USE OF INTERMEDIARIES. THE OFFICE OF POPULATION FELT THAT, EVEN IN THIS FISCAL YEAR, FUNDS COULD BE COMMITTED FOR BROAD SUPPORT TO MEXICO'S PROGRAM IN RURAL AREAS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES, INC. (DAI) AND FPIA. WHEN AID/W RECEIVED INDICATIONS OF ACCEPTABLE PLANS FOR USE OF SUCH FUNDS DAI OR FPIA CAN OBLIGATE THE MONEY TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE DISCUSSION, ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD WITH POPULATION OFFICER DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON TO GO OVER FUTURE STEPS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GOM REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. AT THE SAME TIME DISCUSSION ON AID REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT A USEFUL PROGRAM WILL BE HELD, INCLUDING AN EXAMINATION OF THE NEED FOR AND TIME FRAME AND EFFORT REQUIRED TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY STATEMENT

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